

LINE COPY

March/April 2000 Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department



Seventy firefighters, with more than 20 pieces of apparatus, were dispatched to the scene to fight the blaze at the First Baptist Church of Kingstowne located at 7313 Hayfield Road.



Edward L. Stinnette

"What I didn't realize is that many of these new initiatives and programs were being planned and coordinated by the very same people who were keeping this organization functioning day in and day out."

From The Fire Chief . . .

As you read this issue of Line Copy, I will have been Fire Chief for one year. As I reflect upon the year I am amazed at how fast time passes. As most of you remember, shortly after my appointment I outlined a fairly aggressive agenda during my first year as Fire Chief. What I discovered is that I underestimated the amount of time required to keep this "big machine" operating. What I didn't realize is that many of these new initiatives and programs were being planned and coordinated by the very same people who were keeping this organization functioning day in and day out. Needless to say, my plan was ambitious. However, in spite of all the day-to-day issues and changes, including three international deployments in 90 days, we still accomplished a lot last year. Some of the highlights included:

- Re-writing Standard Operating Procedures
- Appointed several senior officers
- Conducted over 30 child car safety seat checkpoints and trained more than 90 technicians
- Presented several citizens CPR classes
- Initiated and conducted a Computer Partnership Program
- Piloted a mentoring program in the Bailey's Crossroads area for local youths

- Began implementation of the Volunteer Utilization Plan
- Opened a new gear cleaning and air shop
- Appointed a Woman's Program Officer
- Re-organized the Financial Branch of the Department

These are a few of the things that have kept us busy during my first year as Fire Chief, not to mention a small black powder incident on I-95 and a rather large fire loss of a single-family home in the Great Falls area of the county. So, I'm not surprised that several of the initiatives I discussed during my early video teleconference did not come to fruition this year. However, as I look back on our accomplishments, I am always impressed at the dedication and commitment that the members of this organization exhibit every single day. Whether it's delivering emergency services or working on a community outreach program or simply supporting daily operations, the members of this department are truly committed to providing the highest quality of service to our citizens.

I often hear about local initiatives by accident – I am continually impressed and proud at the level of service we provide to the community at the station level. The fact that we have firefighters and paramedics reading to school age children, and have an enthusiastic response to a newly

(continued on page 16)

Edward L. Stinnette, *Fire Chief*
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From The Editor . . .



Once again we're coming into a season of special events for the Public Information and Life Safety Education Section. SAFE Kids Day and the Fairfax Fair provide the department prime opportunities for community outreach within Fairfax County.

Community outreach and how we're involved in the community on a day-to-day basis reflects directly on the value we provide our citizens. Both of these events help us reach out to the community, however, doing our job at the station level in a way that conveys competence, helpfulness, commitment, and a caring attitude is the key to showing our citizens what we are really all about.

As I do ride-a-longs and accompany the Fire Chief on his weekly visits, I continue to be impressed with the positive attitude of our firefighters wanting to help people do the right thing for our citizens. Helping people often times doesn't fall into the realm of a fire or EMS call, but instead, it sometimes takes the form of what we call a "public service" opportunity. These calls can

sometimes test our mettle, and these calls sometimes may not be in our charter to respond to, but we do so anyway. Citizens expect us to be good at fire and EMS incidents, however, not everyone expects us to stop by when invited to a birthday party, install a smoke detector, or rescue a pet. These are the times we earn our bonus points and drive home the point that we care about the community we serve.

SAFE Kids Day (May 6) and the Fairfax Fair (June 10- 11) are scheduled events that we are expected to participate in—that's a given. However, it's the actions that we take daily at the station level that really show what we're made of. Keep up the good work.



Upcoming Events

May

6 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Disaster Drill
Dulles International Airport
Contact:
DC Michael Neuhard
(703) 246-3999

6 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
SAFE Kids Day

June

1 - 4 Herndon Festival
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

1 - 4 Springfield Days
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

9 Fairfax County Fair
6 p.m. - 11 p.m.

10 - 11 Fairfax County Fair
7 a.m. - 11 p.m.

12 Promotional Ceremony
Massey Building
A-Level Training Room
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

July

22 Annual Swift Water Training
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

24 - 30 Annual Swift Water Training
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Fire and Rescue Department Web Site.
Our Web Site address is:
<http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/fire>**

Maintaining Accountability Rapid Intervention Capability at Fire Incidents

*By Battalion Chief Robert E. Rhea
Battalion 4, A-Shift*

Overview
Several major fire incidents across the country have resulted in firefighter fatalities, which again makes our profession focus on the important task of maintaining accountability of our members, and ensuring having a rapid intervention capability for firefighter rescue situations. The recent multi-firefighter fatality fires in Massachusetts and Iowa are just two examples.

Implementing accountability and rapid intervention capabilities at incidents involving entry into immediate danger to life and health atmospheres is not only good common sense, but as we all know, they are mandated by several laws and industry standards. They include:

- OSHA 1910.134 — Respiratory Protection Standard (the 2-in, 2-out rule)
- OSHA 1910.146 — Permit Required Confined Space
- NFPA 1500 — Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program
- NFPA 1670 — Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents
- NFPA 471 — Recommended Practice for Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents

These laws and standards establish guidelines for the fire and rescue community to increase the level of safety for emergency responders. However, these plans and guidelines by themselves do not guarantee our safety. We still must depend on individual department members, unit officers, and incident commanders

to make sound decisions, and maintain good discipline throughout an emergency incident response.

Accountability

Accountability procedures have been used for many years within our Department. The key to its success is its proper use by all members. This starts from the top down. Incident commanders must ensure that the accountability system is in place and used throughout the event. Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) checks must be performed as required at 20-minute intervals, especially during incident acceleration and mayday scenarios.

Engine companies serving as Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) teams should be considered a quick fix to the problem. The capability of engine companies for the task of firefighter rescue is limited. Their advantage is their widespread availability and their quicker response time to the scene in comparison to the response time of the second-due rescue company.

However, engine companies are not going to be as effective as a rescue company for the task of firefighter rescue, (I know what your thinking, the writer is an old squad guy). Rescue companies bring several advantages to the scene that significantly increase the effectiveness of the RIT function. These include:

- An assigned officer.
- Personnel trained in rescue procedures.
- The right tools for the job.
- The right mindset.

Keeping this in mind, the incident commander needs to build out the RIT function in two phases, an initial RIT capability using an available engine, and then quickly calling for a second rescue company to build out the capabilities of a RIT sector.

As these units are assigned to the RIT function, they need to do more than be near the command post. They will need to initiate actions to be ready to function adequately. These actions include gathering size-up information from command, gathering information on the size, location, and intensity of the fire, and locating the various units operating on the fireground.

The RIT function must forecast where units are located that are at most risk, and begin to formulate action plans that will quickly access these units if something goes wrong. The RIT team should begin to assemble a tool staging area and then maintain their availability to the incident commander. As the second rescue company arrives, the RIT sector, composed of the rescue company for rescue tasks and the initial RIT engine for hoseline deployment to the rescue area, can be established. As the complexity of the event dictates the need for increasing the capabilities of the RIT sector, another Battalion Chief and an ALS unit may be assigned, allowing for more effective management of the sector, and dedicated ALS capability to the function.

Incident Management

Don't worry, I didn't forget that the Incident Commander (IC) plays a key role in the success of this emergency, too. In addition to ensuring that the bells and whistles of the accountability system, Incident Management System (IMS), and rapid intervention capability are implemented, critical and timely decisions at the command post must be made to ensure that accountability and rapid intervention are key aspects of the successful outcome of the incident.

Proper assignment of functional units and effective coordination of tasks is essential to command and control of the event. The IC must take the information that they receive from various sources (sector unit officers), and



“In addition to ensuring that the bells and whistles of the accountability system, Incident Management System (IMS), and rapid intervention capability are implemented, critical and timely decisions at the command post must be made to ensure that accountability and rapid intervention are key aspects of the successful outcome of the incident.”

recognize when the incident is “going south.”

As task assignments are made to cover the priority positions (fire attack, vent, search, and exposures), the IC needs to recognize and change the situation when the fire floor is overloaded and re-assign some units to other positions.

Reorganizing the fireground is a difficult task. It will often require the IC to slow down the action when appropriate in order to accomplish this task. When the IC is reorganizing, units reporting to command may be required to standby for a few minutes while decisions are being made. This is where unit discipline is critical. The IC will confirm locations of operating units, decide what functional units are engaged on the fire floor, ensure units are assigned to priority tasks, and reassign units as necessary.

It is important for incident commanders and unit officers to recognize that exposure and support positions such as aide stations and rehab

sectors are critical to the successful outcome of the event. Everybody can't get next to the fire. If we have a firefighter hurt or we remove a burn victim from the building only to find out that the EMS crew has self-deployed on a hoseline, the IC is going to have some serious heartburn. Again, it's discipline.

Rapid Intervention Procedures

The requirement to assign rapid intervention capability has deservedly received a lot of attention lately. It needs to continue to receive a lot of attention as we learn how to implement this new function.

A rapid intervention team must be assigned early during the fire. The system that we currently use is based on the premise of using engine companies as an initial RIT team because these functional units are readily available, and because we use our first alarm rescue companies for initial fireground operations. Incident commanders must take the initiative to increase the level of effectiveness of the RIT capability, as the incident becomes more complex.

Unit officers must recognize the need to coordinate in order to achieve the overall goal of command and control of the incident. It is totally ineffective to have three engine companies all trying to advance into a 10 x 10-bedroom fire while the floor above has gone unchecked.

Remember that the IC cannot see what's happening inside the structure, they depend on unit officers to be their eyes and ears, forwarding information, allowing them to make good decisions. Unit officers are in the best position to determine when there are "too many bodies next to the fire." The disciplined officer will recognize when adequate resources are in place to fight the fire and when others can be reassigned to other tactical positions.

Effective unit officers will constantly ensure the safety of their crews, assessing work area conditions and maintaining accountability for all members under their command. These officers will remain accountable to command by ensuring unit discipline, not allowing

freelancing, and advising command when assignments are complete and there is a change in status.

Individual Performance

Along with the IC and unit officers, all individual firefighters must take ownership of their participation in the accountability and rapid intervention requirements. We can't find you if we don't know where you are, or don't know if you are even at the scene. This applies not only to the field personnel, but also office staff who respond to incident scenes from headquarters.

It is paramount that we all recognize the importance of managing our aggressiveness in such a way that we do not freelance independently and that we maintain the strong discipline required to sometimes stand back and wait for an assignment. Maintaining discipline includes maintaining a safe attitude in relation to how we perform individual tasks. Faster is not always better. Going 90 miles per hour in an unknown direction does not necessarily have a positive impact on the outcome of a fire. An individual who freelances creates the need for command to react to a potential lost firefighter and does not help the cause.

The effective individual member of a team understands and acknowledges the orders of the unit officer. They always remain part of the crew. They are also responsible for assessing their own safety and members of their own crew and reporting their concerns to their unit officers. If an individual becomes separated from their crew, they report to command, a sector officer, or another unit officer immediately.

Individual unit officers must ensure that passports are properly placed at the passport drop-off point or to command. The IC must make sure that passports are then assigned properly and transported by runners, or face-to-face to sector officers.

Fireground accountability is more than just the plastic and Velcro parts of the system. It is also, and more importantly, based on effective

communications and sound individual behavior. Communications must be effective on the fireground to help the IC confirm the location of operating units, to assign and change tasks, and to account for the welfare of all the units operating in the danger zone.

In order for communications to be effective, the IC may have to use various communications techniques such as face to face, runners, multiple radio channels, and/or cellular phones. As the incident grows in complexity, a formal communications plan that includes all of these methods may need to be implemented.

Individual units that arrive on the scene of an incident with larger than normal crews (this often happens when a major incident occurs at shift change), are responsible for the accountability of all personnel. If the crew is split into an alpha crew (E422 and E422A), then the IC must be made aware and the proper unit designator and passport established.

Unit Performance

Maintaining effective accountability is as much a result of proper unit and individual firefighter performance as it is effective management by command. The IC can implement the system, distribute the proper passports to sectors, and initiate PAR checks, but if the unit officers and individuals do not maintain discipline and participate in the system, accountability will fail.

Because the fireground is multi-dimensional, and because we have pre-planned positions and assignments; the IC cannot see all units as they arrive. In most situations, many of the first alarm units are already engaged in the action before the BC arrives. The initial IC must determine the location and task assignment of all units that have arrived on the scene. Many times because of pre-determined assignments, units arrive on the scene out of view of the IC and self engage the fire. When this happens, the unit officers must voice their position and task to the IC or sector officer if they have been assigned to a sector.

Unit officers must maintain the discipline of their crews and ensure that their actions are always coordinated with other operating units and command. If this does not occur, it can result in duplication of efforts, conflicting orders, loss of accountability, opposing hoselines, or overloading of the action area with too many personnel. Overloading of the action area is common when individuals want to get next to the fire.

Summary

Fireground incidents are dynamic emergencies that always create the potential for injuries or fatalities to firefighters. Major fire situations create stressful and demanding scenarios that require the best course of action by all department personnel in order to be successful. Fireground accountability systems, incident management systems, and rapid intervention functions are tools that we all use to increase the level of safety for our personnel. It is important to remember that these systems do not function by themselves, they require proper utilization, positive decision making, and proper actions by all of our members in order for a successful outcome. ❖



Firefighters from Fire Station 38 begin the process of "terminating command" after fighting a three-alarm fire.

Women's Program Officer Appointed



By Sandra S. Witt
Occupational Health and Safety

Technician Tracy E. Brinkley

According to the United States Fire Administration there are currently more than 4,500 women serving in career positions in more than 900 fire departments nationwide. Many fire departments have yet to hire their first woman firefighter. Nationwide, only about two percent of firefighters are women. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department currently has 68 professional women firefighters, of the approximately 1,170 uniformed personnel, or about 5.8 percent. Captain I is the highest rank achieved to date.

To support the increasing number of women within the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, a Women's Program Officer (WPO) was appointed in January 2000 by the Fire Chief. Technician Tracy Brinkley, who reports to the Fire Chief, was chosen to be an advocate for the women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Tracy graduated from the 82nd recruit class, became a medic in 1994 and spent most of her professional firefighting career at Fire and Rescue Stations 9, 11, and 24 and short stints at Fire and Rescue Stations 1 and 2.

In addition to her normal duties at the Fire and Rescue Academy, Tracy attends meetings and station visits in an effort to hear and address the issues and concerns of women firefighters. Below are several frequently asked questions about the WPO answered by Technician Brinkley.

Why does the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department need a Women's Program Officer?

Women need an advocate to ensure that their

concerns are heard and not dismissed. Additionally, women need equitable representation brought to the senior level. The WPO position offers this access. The position also allows information to come from a peer who listens and understands the needs of women in the fire department.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing women today in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department that you will need to tackle while serving as the WPO?

- Promotions (lack of women present in the command structure, encouraging career development)
- Family issues (FMLA, breastfeeding, childcare, shift work)
- Health issues (reproductive safety, pregnancy, ovarian/breast cancer limits to the cancer presumption bill)
- Physical fitness and work performance evaluation
- Recruitment and retention
- Improved facilities for women
- Working in a male dominated culture and fighting stereotypes
- Sexual discrimination and sexual harassment

What do you hope to accomplish while serving in this position?

I intend to address the concerns and issues which have been raised by Fire and Rescue Department personnel. I have already been on the road on behalf of women firefighters. In

February, along with Lieutenant Patrick Morrison, Captain Mike Mohler, Technician Carrie Leigh Boswell, and Firefighter Stacey Lawton, we traveled to Richmond to promote House Bill Amendment 601, allowing the addition of breast and ovarian cancer to the existing cancer presumption bill. HB 601 passed the senate subcommittee with a unanimous vote. This amendment will not only be a benefit of equity, but will ensure that proper care and benefits will be provided when faced with job related illnesses.

Additionally, a women's networking series is planned. Women firefighters come from all walks of life and varying backgrounds. Despite these differences, women firefighters sometimes feel isolated and alone in the firehouse. It is important for women in the fire service to come together and become a source of support for each other, as well as a source of knowledge for those who may wish to pursue a firefighting career. Monthly luncheon meetings are planned in order to introduce female personnel to others in the field. This forum will also provide education and encouragement to participate in the promotional process, provide an avenue to share experiences, and discuss relevant issues. These meetings would also assist in identifying the most relevant and pressing women's issues in the department.

What available resources can you offer?

My connection to the Fire and Rescue Academy, as well to the Fire Chief, enables me to keep current with all the relevant issues that affect field personnel. Additionally, my close relationship with the Occupational Health and Safety Division, particularly the light duty coordinator and the peer fitness counselors, allows me the ability to keep up with the current demands for women firefighters in relation to work issues, completing the work performance test and maintaining adequate levels of fitness to eliminate injuries and attrition.

I am also excited about working with Nancy Kane, the new Physician's Assistant at the PSOHC. Nancy and I are available for both

career and volunteer uniformed department personnel. Many of the issues that come to my attention are not gender specific, and do apply to both men and women, particularly family issues. I can be reached at the Fire and Rescue Academy at (703) 803-3858 or email at Tracy.Brinkley@co.fairfax.va.us and Nancy Kane can be reached at (703) 246-4949 or nckane@yahoo.com. ❖



Nancy Kane, who joined the PSOHC in March, graduated with a BS in Health Science from George Washington University. Her role at PSOHC will be to not only perform physical exams, but to provide wellness care to firefighters as well as physical fitness mentoring.



Hot Shots



A vehicle operator lost control crashing into a Thrift Shop located in Falls Church area. Master Technician Kent E. Watts (Station 18, A-Shift) works to secure the store front. Three people were injured, one seriously. (Photo by Battalion Chief Robert E. Rhea, Battalion 4, A-Shift).



Five fatalities resulted from this vehicle crash on southbound Interstate 395 near Interstate 495 on March 18. Firefighters used a Snake-Eye Search camera to check for patients in the second vehicle that was totally crushed beneath the trash truck. Firefighters from Rescue Squad 18 extricated two patients from the back seat of the second vehicle (vehicle in the foreground) within 8 minutes. Two additional people did not survive in the second vehicle. (Photo by Sheldon Levi, Photo 421).



Workers were preparing to pin the sub-floor to the fire wall and install windows in this townhouse under construction. Construction workers had removed the temporary shoring when a gust of wind knocked over the townhouse. Photo Firefighter Eric M. Wyatt (Station 11, C-Shift).



Rescue Squad 14 extricated two patients from the first vehicle that was struck by the trash truck above. Firefighters extricated the two trauma patients in 14 minutes. (Photo by Sheldon Levi, Photo 421).



First arriving units found fire coming from the attic and windows of the First Baptist Church of Kingstowne. Damage was estimated at \$750,000.



A car caught on fire in the garage at 10816 Paynes Church Drive causing \$6,000 in damage.



Firefighters initiated an aggressive attack on the Exxon service station fire at 5701 Burke Centre Parkway. The fire was brought under control in 15 minutes with \$500,000 in damage.



Foam 426 was dispatched to help extinguish a transformer fire in the Fairfax Station area. The fire caused more than \$10 million in damages.

1999 Volunteer Firefighter of the Year Awards

By Susan Herbert
Headquarters, Fire Chief's Office

The 1999 Volunteer Firefighter of the Year awards presentation was presented on Monday, March 27, 2000, as part of the Board of Supervisors regular meeting. The honorees were selected by the Volunteer Fire Commission and the Fire Chief from nominations submitted by volunteer and career personnel earlier this year.

Each of these individuals has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department through hundreds of hours of time spent providing fire and EMS service or in other roles to support the goals of the Fairfax County combined career-volunteer system.

Volunteer Firefighter

Gary N. Moore

Annandale Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Moore has been a volunteer firefighter since 1990. In 1999, he contributed 947 hours of service. He rides the apparatus at Fire and Rescue Station 23, West Annandale and he assists with the staffing of Canteen 8 during major incidents. Mr. Moore works for Scientex Corporation and is a resident of Springfield.

Volunteer Operational Officer

Donald R. Melick

Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department

Mr. Melick is the Chief of the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and a paramedic. In 1999, he provided over 1,000 hours of service to the community. He is a contractor with George G. Sharp, Inc. supporting the Navy's safety and survivability office and resides with his family in West Springfield.

Volunteer ALS Provider

Kelsea N. Lockhart, Franconia Volunteer Fire Department

Ms. Lockhart is a certified volunteer firefighter, having met the same training standards as her career counterparts. In addition, she is completing her training as a paramedic. Her dedication to the Franconia community is not limited to riding apparatus. She was chair of the Fire Prevention Open House committee at Fire and Rescue Station 5, and is a member of the Fire Commission's fitness standards committee. Ms. Lockhart is a career firefighter in Fauquier County and a resident of the Alexandria area.

Volunteer BLS Provider

Kathleen M. Hurley

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department

Ms. Hurley is one of the most active volunteer emergency medical technicians in the County. During 1999, she contributed almost 2,300 hours of service, including regularly riding the ambulance and the medic with both volunteer and career crews out of Fire and Rescue Station 2. Ms. Hurley is employed by Freddie Mac and is a resident of Reston.

Volunteer EMS Provider

Joan M. Bliss

Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department

Ms. Bliss is the first woman from the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department to go through paramedic training. She is an EMS-Only volunteer who contributed over 700 hours of service to the Reston and Great Falls areas. Ms. Bliss resides with her family in Great Falls.

Rookie of the Year*Steven R. Bonkoski**Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Department*

Mr. Bonkoski achieved the level of fully certified volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician in 1999. This required giving up several weekday evenings and weekends every month to complete the rigorous and demanding training. In addition to the training, he rode the apparatus to fine-tune his skills, and became the grounds maintenance coordinator for Fire and Rescue Station 13. In 1999, he contributed 1,145 hours of service. Mr. Bonkoski resides in Great Falls.

Administrative Officer*Brian D. Mayberry**Franconia Volunteer Fire Department*

Mr. Mayberry is the President of the Franconia VFD. Under his leadership and direction, the long planned renovations to Fire and Rescue Station 5 are now underway. He is a leader who has tackled the issues of running a volunteer fire department with energy and a business sense. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, he regularly rides the ambulance. Mr. Mayberry works at Fort Belvoir and he is a resident of the Rose Hill section of Alexandria.

Administrative Member*Tracy L. Moreland**Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department*

Ms. Moreland has been an active member of the Greater Springfield VFD since 1994. She is being recognized for her efforts as the project coordinator for the Child Safety House, a mobile educational classroom. In 1999, over 1,200 children were provided basic safety information through this medium. Ms. Moreland averages over 40 hours a month as a volunteer. She works for Singer and Associates in Bealton and is a resident of Alexandria.

Canteen Member*Gregory A. Mason**Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department*

Mr. Mason has been an active volunteer in the fire service since 1973. During the past year, he spearheaded an effort to develop a canteen unit to serve the needs of firefighters who are working on large-scale working fires and traffic incidents. Through his dedication and determination, a new canteen unit is now in place to serve the firefighters in the southern end of the County. Mr. Mason contributed over 50 hours per month to the volunteer fire service. Mr. Mason is a resident of Springfield.

The Fire Chiefs Award*Alan Caldwell**Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Department*

Mr. Caldwell has been an active volunteer firefighter since 1988. He is a County certified operational chief and he has served as a member of the Volunteer Fire Commission since 1992. During the past year, he served as a key participant in the development of a volunteer utilization plan that has been adopted by all components of the fire service. In addition, he served on the selection committee for the new Fire Chief. Mr. Caldwell works for the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and is a resident of the Vienna-Dunn Loring area.

Special Staff Member Recognition*Howard Timmons**Vehicle Maintenance Coordinator**Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department*

In addition to recognizing the efforts of the volunteers who support the fire and rescue services in the County, the Fire Commission chose to honor a member of the Fire and Rescue Department staff. Mr. Timmons is being recognized for his exceptional efforts and dedication to the needs of the combination system in the County. This recognition is presented on behalf of the 12 volunteer fire departments in the County. Mr. Timmons has worked for the Fire and Rescue Department since 1985. He is a resident of Catlett, Virginia. ♦

Mount Vernon Employees Certified as First Responders

By Jennie Saxon

Mount Vernon Estate Public Relations' Office

Twenty-five Mount Vernon employees recently completed forty hours of EMS First Responder training with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department at George Washington's home, ensuring emergency care for the one million visitors who tour the home of our first president every year.

"We always have someone on the grounds, day or night, trained to respond to a person in need," said Jim Simms, Mount Vernon's Fire Chief and Director of Operations and Maintenance.

"Thanks to the help of the Fairfax County Fire and

Rescue Department, Mount Vernon provides high quality emergency medical services to employees and visitors. This type of service is crucial to Mount Vernon's safe environment."

During the certification ceremony, Simms presented Captain Mike Ciarrocchi, Battalion Chief Bill Bullock and Technician Steve Norris with roof shingles from the recent restoration of

the Mansion's roof as tokens of appreciation for their voluntary service to Mount Vernon's first responder program. Fire Chief Edward Stinnette

was presented with a leather fire bucket, a reproduction of those George Washington kept close at hand in the 18th century.

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the partnership between Mount Vernon and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. This year's graduating class of first responders is the fifth at Mount Vernon since its beginning in 1985. First responders are trained to quickly reach

patients, provide emergency care and, when necessary, move patients without causing further injury. They respond to a wide range of situations, from skinned knees and bee stings to broken bones and heart attacks.

Mount Vernon's first responders have assisted visitors who could not speak English, those with asthma and diabetes complications,



First Responder class participants pose with Chief Edward L. Stinnette, Battalion Chief William L. Bullock (Batt. 6, B-Shift), Technician Steven D. Norris (Station 26, A-Shift), Captain II Michael J. Ciarrocchi (Station 15, A-Shift), and Jennie Saxon (front row from left to right). Walt Beale, Dave Carpenter, Gary Carper, Jack DaFonseca, Nancey Drinkwine, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Michelle Gaide, Tom Hudson, Robert Leadbeater, Jim Mitchell, Sandy Newton, Mack Owens, John Payne, Matt Peterschmidt, Clay Pugh, Emory Smith, Jim Staranowicz, Learie Sutherland, and John Withrow. Rusty Embrey, Sue Keeler, Joni Koons, Jim McVee, Jim Simms, and Joe Sliger, also recertified, have been first responders with Mount Vernon since the beginning of this program in 1985.

and even an entire student group experiencing food poisoning symptoms from their hotel dinner the night before. For serious injuries, first responders stay with patients until Fairfax County emergency personnel arrive, and in one instance they assisted with a patient who was medivaced by helicopter to a nearby hospital.

"While people are on vacation, they often stay up late, don't eat right and don't take their medications," said Simms. "When they get to Mount Vernon, they start to feel ill and the first responders are called to help."

The First Responder training course for Mount Vernon staff is offered every four years, making 2003 the next opportunity for certification. These first responders represent many different personnel departments at Mount Vernon including Security, Operations & Maintenance, Historic Interpretation, Collections, Preservation, and Finance.

Mount Vernon staff who will provide medical assistance at George Washington's home for the next four years include: Walt Beale, Dave Carpenter, Gary Carper, Jack DaFonseca, Nancey Drinkwine, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Michelle Gaide, Tom Hudson, Robert Leadbeater, Jim Mitchell, Sandy Newton, Mack Owens, John Payne, Matt Peterschmidt, Clay Pugh, Emory Smith, Jim Staranowicz, Learie Sutherland, and John Withrow. Rusty Embrey, Sue Keeler, Joni Koons, Jim McVee, Jim Simms, and Joe Sliger, also recertified, have been first responders with Mount Vernon since the beginning of this program in 1985. ♦

Focus your effort on a few things that will make a major difference. Try to do everything and you do nothing.

Dear Chief Stinnette:

I am writing in regards to Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department's Child Safety Seat Program.

I recently took my infant carseat to be inspected at the Frying Pan Park Station by firefighter Evelyn Edwards. Not only did I find out that my carseat was not tightly installed... Firefighter Edwards and Technician Ken Neumann gave me very useful safety tips about my infant seat.

I am very grateful for firefighter Edwards and Technician Neumann's expertise in child safety seats. I think this program is wonderful, especially for new moms such as myself. Not only does this program encourage parents to get their seats checked... it is also saving lives.

Thank you for allowing Fairfax County residents to utilize this program... I hope it continues to help others.

Sincerely,

Denet Adam
103-108-1207



Members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team were honored at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASCPA) National Humane Awards Luncheon 2000. The awards luncheon was held on Tuesday, February 8, 2000, in New York City at the Pierre Hotel. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Urban Search and Rescue Canine Team received the Trooper Award for Animal Heroism. The Canine Search and Rescue Team was recognized for their work last year in Izmit and Duzce, Turkey. Pictured from left to right are: Elizabeht Kreiffer with Garret, Sonja Heritage with Otto, Scott Earhart with Taz, Garrett Dyer with Kudo, and Marilyn Arwe with Ayla.

Large Loss Fire Investigations

Date: 03/01/00 **Box:** 2108 **Address:** 12000 Lee Jackson Highway **Type :** Commercial
Cause: Accidental-Electrical **Value:** \$30,000,000 **Loss:** \$1,200,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 03/07/00 **Box:** 2803 **Address:** 3070 Hazelton Street **Type:** House
Cause: Accidental-Candle **Value:** \$251,767 **Loss:** \$125,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 03/08/00 **Box:** 2404 **Address:** 9114 Cherry Tree Drive **Type:** House
Cause: Accidental-Electrical **Value:** \$253,500 **Loss:** \$200,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 03/10/00 **Box:** 3504 **Address:** 8194 Ships Curve Lane **Type:** House
Cause: Accidental-Food on the Stove **Value:** \$215,970 **Loss:** \$105,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 03/14/00 **Box:** 2900 **Address:** 7950 Jones Branch Drive **Type:** Commercial
Cause: Accidental-Electrical **Value:** \$71,000,000 **Loss:** \$400,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 03/16/00 **Box:** 1409 **Address:** 6218 Centaurus Court **Type:** House **Cause:** Undetermined
Value: \$150,000 **Loss:** \$100,000 **Status:** Inactive

Date: 03/27/00 **Box:** 1400 **Address:** 9501 Burning Branch Road **Type:** House
Cause: Accidental-Electrical **Value:** \$250,000 **Loss:** \$60,000 **Status:** Closed

Date: 03/31/00 **Box:** 0529 **Address:** 6005-A Curtier Drive **Type:** Apartment
Cause: Accidental-Food on the Stove **Value:** \$666,735 **Loss:** \$50,000 **Status:** Closed

(continued from page 2)

created mentoring program for some local youths is real evidence of your commitment to our citizens.

Some of the initiatives that did not get addressed last year, but are still important and on my agenda for next year includes:

- Developing a strategic plan
- Rank structure
- Providing a continuing education and training program for our officers
- Implementing a new Candidate Physical Abilities Test (CPAT) process for new applicants
- Recruitment and retention of women firefighters and paramedics
- Peer and Self-Assessment Program
- Increasing staff level for trucks, squads and tankers

As I look at this list, it appears that this agenda for next year is equally as long as last year's.

However, all of these items are important initiatives facing the department that must be addressed and dealt with if we are to continue to provide the best possible care and service to our citizens.

Our department continues to enjoy an outstanding reputation in the community and among its fire service peers because of the selfless efforts of the men and women of this organization. For all your efforts and hard work last year, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you and ask for your support for an even better next year. ❖

Arrests/Petitions

Date: 09/05/97 **Box:** 1099 **Address:** 5501 Columbia Pike **Type:** Apartment **Narrative:** The defendant was charged with setting fire to an apartment. A trial date was set for late April.

Date: 07/11/98 **Box:** 2504 **Address:** 1550 Moorings Drive **Type:** Dumpster **Narrative:** The defendant was charged with burning personal property. A trial date was set for May.

Date: 10/15/98 **Box:** 0406 **Address:** 1635 Reston Parkway **Type:** Port-a-Jon **Narrative:** The defendant was charged with two counts of burning personal property. A trial date was set for May.

Date: 11/07/99 **Box:** 4218 **Address:** 214 Maple Avenue, West **Type:** Outside **Narrative:** Two defendants were charged with setting an outside fire. A trial date was set for April.

Date: 12/09/99 **Box:** 1202 **Address:** 10848 Patowmack Drive **Type:** Outside **Narrative:** Two defendants were charged with two counts each of setting an outside fire. A trial date was set for late April.

Date: 01/01/00 **Box:** 0406 **Address:** Bennington Woods & Killingsworth Avenue **Type:** Outside **Narrative:** The defendant was charged with two counts of setting an outside fire. A trial date was set for May.

Date: 03/08/00 **Box:** 1922 **Address:** 8106 West Point Drive **Type:** Outside **Narrative:** The defendant was charged with setting an outside fire. A trial date was set for May.

Date: 03/26/00 **Box:** 2108 **Address:** 12113 Ragan Oaks Court **Type:** Outside **Narrative:** The defendant was charged with setting an outside fire. A trial date was set for May.

Golf Tournament Date Change

The Fairfax County Retired Fireman's Association has changed the date of it's annual golf tournament. The previously announced date of October 23, 2000, has been changed to September 18, 2000, at the Springfield Country Club.

Line Copy will publish additional tournament information at a later date.

Retirements

Captain II James E. Beadle
January 11, 1971 - April 21, 2000

Captain II David G. Bridges
October 15, 1974 - March 24, 2000

Master Technician Ken E. Derrenbacker
June 21, 1976 - March 24, 2000

Battalion Chief James D. Justice
February 28, 1977 - March 24, 2000

Anniversaries

5 Years

Russell E. Dodge, Instructor
Specialized Training
Scott D. Keener, Instructor
Specialized Training
Jonathan R. Starling, Instructor
Specialized Training

10 Years

Technician Mervin E. Barrera
Technician Natalie D. Bell
Lieutenant Rodney V. Colbert
Technician Danny J. Daniels
Karen L. Deli, Instructor
Specialized Training
Captain I Andrew L. Duke
Master Technician William T. Hyden
Firefighter Kenneth M. Laverock
Firefighter Horace C. Pendergrass
Firefighter Charleen L. Petruzzi
Lieutenant Rebecca S. Price-Lyons
Master Technician John W. Richter
Lieutenant Richard A. Roatch
Firefighter Garfield R. Rodriguez
Master Technician John W. Rogers

15 Years

Firefighter Michael V. Allen
Captain II John J. Caussin
Master Technician John Chabal
Lieutenant Steven D. Clark
Technician Michael W. Conover
Captain II John Diamantes
Technician Ronald S. Furlong
Master Technician
George A. Hollingsworth
Technician Joseph M. Jones
Technician James R. Low
Lieutenant James J. Masiello
Lieutenant Charles D. Mills
Master Technician
Timothy J. Miscovich
Firefighter Richard D. Riley

Technician James H. Tolson
Master Technician Dale L. Varnau
Lieutenant James J. Walsh
Lieutenant Robert E. Wheeler

New Hires

Patricia Alexander
Jorge A. Arce
Timothy O. Barb
Todd I. Barb
Christopher W. Barnes
Mathew C. Barnhart
Bill C. Betz
Vincent L. Boyle
Gerald D. Butler
Keith E. Curriden
Stanley E. Earl
Michael O. Feaster

Christina Fisher
Wayne C. Garland
Kenneth G. Geffen
Kyung S. Ha
Eric D. McLaughlin
Robin M. Lotz
Michael D. Miller
Brian P. Moore
Claude V. Person
Antjuan D. Proctor
James P. Reardon III
Sherry L. Rickard
Jason M. Roberts
Richard C. Scott
Leonard Smoot
Judith Uhrmacher
Wilbur L. Willingham, Jr.
Michael R. Zdunski

Top 10 Activity Report

March 2000

Ambulance

Unit	Calls
A 413	179
A 408	178
A 409	167
A 410	156
A 411	154
A 430	154
A 414	153
A 431	147
A 436	134
A 428	127

Engine Company

Unit	Calls
E 410	231
E 413	223
E 409	222
E 404	216
E 411	215
E 426	209
E 405	208
E 408	200
E 430	197
E 418	194

Rescue Company

Unit	Calls
RE 425	168
R 401	113
R 421	113
R 426	110
R 418	101
R 411	100
R 414	76
R 419	60

Medic

Unit	Calls
M 410	246
M 418	237
M 422	211
M 425	208
M 426	204
M 404	190
M 408	187
M 417	182
M 411	181
M 409	180



Ladder Company

Unit	Calls
T 429	120
T 410	112
T 425	107
T 430	86
T 436	83
T 411	81
T 422	80
T 408	77
T 424	72
T 405	64

*Total includes rescue and engine calls. Unit activity is compiled from the event history file. A unit must be dispatched to a call to be included in an event history file. A unit add-on is not considered a dispatch. Mutual aid dispatches are included in the activity report.



Taking Up

Captain II
James E. Beadle, Jr.

Entry Date: January 11, 1971

Retirement Date: April 21, 2000

Assignments: Fire and Rescue Stations 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27, 28, 36, and Fire and Rescue Academy.

Likes about the Fire Department: Co-workers/camaraderie, helping people; diverse activities; daily training, emergency responses, public relations, and money.

Will miss about the Fire Department: Day-to-day associations with fellow firefighters – Greg's home-cooked meals.

Plans for the future: Play more golf, spend more time with my family (especially my granddaughter, Emma,) and complete some neglected projects around the house.

Words of wisdom: Remember—it's the people you work with, not the location that makes the difference.

What got you interested in the fire service? Was working as a computer operator (hated it) and wanted to work with my hands and be outside more.

Who or what made an influence in your career? Lieutenant Doug Turner, Captain Stewart Fox, Chief Glenn Gaines, and many others that provided support and encouragement.



The Internet

Waiting for the next call, forget the TV, check out the Internet for sites that will provide a wealth of news, trends, and other relevant information that will enable you to remain at the top of your profession.

The Fire and Rescue Training Division is not endorsing the following sites, they are a sample of the type of sites you may wish to surf.



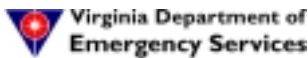
<http://idt.net/~firedft9>



<http://emsvillage.com>



<http://www.iaff.org>



<http://www.vdes.state.va.us/>



<http://www.firefighting.com>



<http://www.firehouse.com>



<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>



<http://www.fire-ems.net>



<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>



The Office of Hazardous Materials Safety

<http://hazmat.dot.gov/gydebook.htm>



<http://www.iafc.org>

Virginia Department of Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/oems>



Station Profile

Burke Fire and Rescue Station # 14

Captain II
Joseph M. Kaleda
Station Commander



**Volunteer Chief
Don Melick**

Station constructed: Temporary quarters since November 1997.

Station logo/motto: Flamingo

Station specialty: Technical rescue operations and extrication.

Square miles in first due area: 9.6

Specific hazardous/target areas: Lake Braddock High School, two retirement homes, and a nursing home.

Total Calls for 1999: 3,525

Equipment assigned to station: quint, pumper, squad, ambulance, brush, cave-in trailer, cave-in tow vehicle, utility, boat, car, and one medic reserve.

Station personnel: **A-Shift: Captain I Gregory A. Bunch**, Lieutenant Steven J. Blount, Technician Erick L. Weinzapfel, Technician William M. Bertone, Master Technician Edward D. Bowman, Technician Charles W. Horton, Jr., Technician Mark J. Plunkett, Master Technician Barbara G. Schirmacher, Technician Randal L. Bittinger, Technician William M. Best, and Technician Charles R. Cunningham. **B-Shift: Captain II Joseph M. Kaleda**, Lieutenant Carlton G. Burkhammer, Technician Francis O. Mensah, Technician Herbert M. Knerr, Jr., Master Technician Randal A. Leatherman, Technician Samuel L. Poles, Jr., Technician Daryl T. Casey, Technician Ronald S. Furlong, Technician Evan J. Lewis, and Technician William E. Teal. **C-Shift: Captain I James L. Hedrick**, Lieutenant Brendan B. Harris, Technician Luis V. Rollins, Technician Benjamin C. Hudson, Master Technician Richard A. McKinney, Jr., Technician Charles A. Williams, Master Technician Thomas W. Reedy, Technician Stephen J. Meyer, Technician Manuel L. Stribling, II, Technician Earl J. Burroughs, Technician Samuel L. Sandeen, and Firefighter Jevon K. Wilson.

Volunteer President: Bob Mizer

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

Attn: Public Information and Life Safety Education Section
4100 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

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